

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 26, 2005

BROWN URGES CITIZENS TO VOICE OBJECTIONS TO CLOSING BMV BRANCH IN GARY

INDIANAPOLIS --- A public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 17, will give Lake County residents an excellent opportunity to voice their opposition to the closing of a Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) license branch in Gary, according to State Rep. Charlie Brown (D-Gary).

The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the Tamarack Hall Main Auditorium on the campus of Indiana University Northwest, 3400 Broadway, in Gary.

"It is extremely difficult for me to accept the BMV's logic that the largest city in Lake County has been targeted for a license branch closure," Brown said.

"The overall decision-making process at the BMV has mystified nearly everyone ever since Mitch Daniels took office," Brown added. "From failures to communicate with legislators and other elected officials to the purely political overtones of their actions, the BMV has set a new standard for how not to run a state agency."

Brown said he is particularly concerned that new Republican-sponsored state laws requiring photo identification at the voting booth will place greater burdens on Lake County residents who will need to obtain a photo ID card in order for their votes to count.

"Until we have a better idea of just how the new voter ID law is going to impact our citizens, we should be doing all we can to maintain access to the BMV's ID services," Brown said. "Closing the Gary license branch is definitely not a step in that direction."

"I am looking forward to hearing BMV officials explain exactly how they arrived at the decision to close the Gary license branch," Brown added. "And I am even more interested in hearing directly from many of the thousands of Lake County citizens who will be negatively impacted by this closing."

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H03